



# HOWNIIKAN

Bnakwigises / October 2015

## Gathering Tales



Check out stories from the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations 2015 in Carter, Wisconsin.

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## Lifesaving 911 call



Learn about the 911 call that saved the life of an infant.

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## Updates at museum and online for CPN Cultural Heritage Center

By Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., Director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center

The chaos and flurry of activities that surround Festival and the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations have come and gone, allowing the staff of the CHC the opportunity to turn our attention to new and exciting projects.

Foremost on our agenda is putting the museum back in order so we can share the history of the Potawatomi with the thousands of Tribal members and other patrons who visit the CHC each year. Most of you are aware that 18 months ago, a flood devastated the Cultural Heritage Center and forced us to close most of the building to the public. The months following the flood were busy with the seemingly unending tasks associated with undertaking the structural and cosmetic repairs to the facility that are necessary after a disaster of the magnitude we experienced. Monitoring the condition of items in our collection

and ensuring they are properly taken care of while in storage has been a priority for the archives and collections staff. Perhaps the most tedious and frustrating post-flood responsibility we have faced is the protracted process of working with insurance companies to settle the claims for an incident of this scope.

Now that most of the technicalities have been addressed, we can begin the exciting work of designing and building new exhibits. We have set out a timeline of eighteen to twenty-four months to complete the redesign, but we will work furiously to have as many of the new exhibits completed as we can by the time we host Festival and Gathering in 2016. The Veteran's Wall of Honor is already in progress, and we will start construction on the main exhibit hall soon.

Tribal members will be able to track the progress of the museum redesign on our new and improved web-



*Along with the physical changes, the new website and logo are part of the updates at the Cultural Heritage Center.*

site, [www.potawatomiheritage.org](http://www.potawatomiheritage.org). This website is a great resource for individuals who want to learn more

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## CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION ST. GREGORY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

### IS THIS OPPORTUNITY RIGHT FOR YOU?

If you're a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and you meet the academic standards of St. Gregory's University, you may qualify for a full scholarship to earn your degree. Making this determination is the first step in the process.

### WHICH DEGREE OPTION IS BEST FOR YOU?

Several degree options are funded by this scholarship. Whether you have previous college credit or are just starting out, you should meet with a CPN or SGU representative to determine which degree option is best for you.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CPN AND SGU SCHOLARSHIP, VISIT

[WWW.POTAWATOMI.ORG/IMAGES/SGU-CPN-DIGITAL.JPG](http://WWW.POTAWATOMI.ORG/IMAGES/SGU-CPN-DIGITAL.JPG)

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Once you've decided that St. Gregory's University is the right opportunity for you, then you will proceed to the application process.





# It’s more than just survival: Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October

Begun in 1981 by the Coalition Against Domestic Violence, organizations around the country spend each October raising awareness of the scourge of domestic violence. In Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, agencies from local non-profits, the district attorney, local law enforcement and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope work to combat this epidemic.

According to the latest figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 38 million American women have experienced physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. The statistics for Native American women are even more staggering, with a 2008 Department of Justice Report estimating that 38 percent of Native women surveyed identified as victims of intimate partner violence, far higher than any other race.

“Victims stay in these relationships for many different reasons,” noted CPN House of Hope’s Amanda Chapman. “Some stay in because of their religious beliefs. Others stay for survival; to protect themselves and their children. Many times the abusers make threats of being able to find their victims even if they leave, take the children and keep them from ever seeing them again. They convince the victim no one will believe them. Verbal and emotional abuse can destroy a person’s self-esteem and confidence.”

Even in instances where victims understand there are avenues of support available, human compassion and hope can result in them granting their abuser excuses in hopes of better behavior.

“Many times victims try to focus on the small glimmer of positive, hoping



Contact the House of Hope at 405-878-HOPE

for changes that are typically promised by the abuser after a violent episode. Some hope they can change the abuser. In reality, the only person that changes the abuser is himself or herself,” said Chapman.

One aspect outside observers may notice about a loved one’s involvement in an abusive relationship is the gradual distancing of the victims from family, friends and coworkers.

“Isolation is another key reason victims do not or cannot reach out for help,” Chapman pointed out. “Many times the abuser will isolate the victim, even forcing them to quit working in order to have power and control over the victim. This also forces

the victim to become more financially dependent on the abuser.”

Convincing victims that there are other options available to them is one of the greatest challenges facing those like Chapman and the staff at House of Hope, who struggle to break the cycle of abuse. Yet hope springs eternal each day for these individuals taking on one of CPN’s toughest assignments.

The House of Hope offers victim advocacy, court advocacy, counseling, educational assistance, legal assistance and parenting classes for victims of intimate partner violence for residents in Pottawatomie, Cleveland and Oklahoma counties. If you

do not meet those requirements but still have questions or need support, Chapman encourages people to get in touch.

“Even if they do not meet the eligibility requirements, we will give them the appropriate referrals for services in their area,” concluded Chapman. “Our goal is to make sure that no one ever feels like they have to live with domestic violence in order to survive.”

For more information on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/CPNH2015> or call 405-878-HOPE.

## Citizen Potawatomi Nation BY THE NUMBERS

Millennials (Born between 1981-2001): 12,596

Generation X (Born between 1965-1980): 5,730

Baby Boomers (Born between 1946-1964): 7,248

70's: 1,626 • 80's: 690 • 90's: 152 • 100+: 11



Currently the CPN  
has 32,048 members

Males 15,997  
Females 16,051

Information provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls



## Housing Department's One Time Grant Program going strong

By Sherry Byers,  
CPN Housing Authority

With 16 years of success, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department's one time grant is the most requested homeownership program the Tribe runs. Evolving over the course of that time, the One Time Grant Program has assisted many Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal members with funds for their down payment or closing costs that are associated with the purchase, construction or refinancing of a home.

In addition to assisting individual Tribal members with this program, CPN would also like to see the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's First National Bank and Trust Co. benefit by originating the mortgage loans. FNB is able to offer most loan programs, like other lending institutions, with the exception of loans that are affiliated with predatory lenders.

Despite the program's success over its 16 years, there are still many CPN members out there uninformed about this program and the services of the tribally-owned FNB. Our office receives calls daily from Tribal members who never knew of this grant or



*Mortgage refinancing and new home purchases are available through the Tribal Housing Department's flagship program.*

that the Tribe owns its own bank.

All Citizen Potawatomi Tribal members are eligible for this grant one time only. The maximum amount available is \$2,125, which does not have to be repaid. This program cannot be used for any type of mobile home and the home being purchased must be the primary residence of the signer. It is not available to convicted felons or any household where felons reside. Finally, a Tribal member's

name *must* be on the loan.

To apply, the following information is required:

- Copy of borrowers CPN membership card
- Copy of the "Good Faith Estimate" from their lender
- Income verification for all household members (last three to four

pay stubs or if same employer for years the last two years of tax returns)

- Name of the Closing Entity (title co., escrow co., attorney, etc.)
- Completed W-9 form
- Copy of Appraisal when available

The application and support information is required in the CPN Housing Department's office at least *three* weeks prior to the closing date. This gives our office enough time to get the paperwork processed and the check mailed back to the Tribal member by the specified date.

To request the application or general information regarding the CPN One Time Grant Program, please contact Sherry Byers, Homeownership Manager at (405) 273-2833 or at [sbyers@potawatomi.org](mailto:sbyers@potawatomi.org).

For information regarding loan products and lending requirements at First National Bank and Trust Co., please contact Jeff Scroggins, Mortgage Loan Officer at (405) 275-8830 or at 1-800-227-8362.

### CHC continued...

about Citizen Potawatomi history, get updated information on activities and programming taking place at the CHC and stay up to date on events like Festival and Gathering. In the next six months we plan to expand the scope of the 'History' and 'Lifeways' sections of the website, and our goal is to create new content monthly. Tribal members get to know the eagles at the aviary a little better and follow the regular activities taking place there in our new eagle biography and aviary blog features.

The 'Research' section of the website has a few features that will excite many of our Tribal members who are interested in history. For the past two years CHC staff members in our Tribal Heritage Productions, Archives, and Ethnology Departments have worked with a content management

system that allows us to make all of our archival collections - including videos, photos, manuscripts, etc. - available online through a searchable format. We only have a small portion of the collections available at this time, but we are adding more items every day. The procedure of making these records available is tedious, so we ask that you remain patient with us and check back regularly as we process the collections.

For those who would like to participate in preserving Citizen Potawatomi history, we have a Transcription option in the 'Research' section. This page allows documents that are difficult to transcribe through optical character recognition to be downloaded. The individual can then read and transcribe the document at home and send the text to the staff at the CHC. We will check the transcription for accuracy and then move it on to the next step in the process

of making it available and searchable online.

In addition to the new CHC website, we extensively overhauled the online store for FireLake Gifts in the past six months. Our goals were to improve the visitor's online shopping experience, increase the number of items available, and highlight some of our one-of-a-kind pieces. We recently started an item of the week feature that has proven to be very popular. Beginning in November, we plan to highlight a different artist or craftsperson with merchandise in the gift shop so our shoppers can better appreciate the time and talent that goes into making the beautiful pieces available. Store items can always be viewed and purchased at <https://giftshop.potawatomi.org/>.

We look forward to finishing out the year with a great deal of activity and progress so that each and every Trib-

al member and our guests can enjoy the resources available through the Cultural Heritage Center.

Please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CPNCulturalHeritage](http://www.facebook.com/CPNCulturalHeritage) or visit FireLake Gift Shop's page at [www.facebook.com/firelakegifts](http://www.facebook.com/firelakegifts) to provide feedback or ask questions about happenings at the CHC.



## Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Questions: Toll-free 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to: Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.



# Pokagon Band tribal member finds full time hobby after retirement

Each year at the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations, vendors set up booths just outside of the dance arena for attendees to buy gifts and handmade crafts. One vendor, whose products come marked with their unmistakable red heart stamp, stands out amongst the many present. Hal Wiggins, whose Potawatomi name translates to “Red Heart,” is a Pokagon Band Potawatomi tribal member and owner of Red Heart Native American Art.

Wiggins initially got into the business through his shaping and crafting of knives following his retirement in 1999, explaining that he simply was looking for something to do. Now, 14 years into his second career, Wiggins handmade products are made with the care of a true craftsman.

“I’ve been collecting old table, carving and butter knives from the 1820s through the 1920s,” said Wiggins.



Hal Wiggins finishes each piece with his signature red heart.

“After 1890 the handles became plastic and I’ll knock the handle off and replace it with a piece of an antler to give it a new handle.”

Wiggins continued, “Usually a butter knife will become a camp knife and the larger knives like a butcher or carving knife become a skinning knife.”

Wiggins explained that it’s difficult to say how long it takes him to make a knife. He makes 10 to 15 knives at a time, working on each one a little bit at a time.

“It may take up to three to four hours to make the sheath and the knife,” said Wiggins. “I do everything to the handles and sheaths; from the beadwork, to cutting the leather and braiding the lacing.”

He also makes many other items that have a strong traditional Potawatomi



Red Heart custom made knife sold at FireLake Gift Shop.

influence, such as the turtle rattle.

“I cover the rattles with elk hide and fill them full of deer corn or BBs,” said Wiggins. “If the turtle shells are small enough I’ll make a necklace out of them.”

Wiggins uses natural material for all of his creations. He’s made 20 bear claw necklaces and is able to use real claws provided by select vendors across the United States. One of his favorite pieces to make is the turtle drum. Like everything else, he uses real snapping turtles for the drum.

“I first saw them 60 years ago in a museum down in Tennessee,” said Wiggins. “From then on I’ve always used that inspiration for the 217 turtle drums that I’ve made.”

Wiggins treats his “hobby” as just that, choosing to not have an online presence and only work the powwow circuit as a vendor, although he does work with some repeat customers.

“I try and stay away from doing business at home,” said Wiggins. “I do have calls from people that I’ve met throughout the years and I am able to send them my products.”

Wiggins’ items are for sale in Oklahoma through FireLake Gift Shop, which can be reached at 405-878-5830 or by visiting <http://giftshop.potawatomi.org/>.

# A Whirlwind in Wisconsin – Attending the Potawatomi Gathering in Forest County

By Janet A. Pearl (Wichap Gishek - “Blue Sky”)

The week we were in Forest County Potawatomi Country went so fast because we were constantly kept busy by our hosts – learning the Native language and history of the Potawatomi in Wisconsin; staying in a Northwoods log cabin; making Native crafts and eating all the delicious food provided. It included the heady scent of sweet grass soap and scoring a pair of handcrafted beaded earrings from a First Nation vendor of Canada. There were t-shirts galore and lots of giveaways at the powwow. Life was great while we were in the land of lakes.

It was a deeply moving experience to hear the native *Bodewadmimwen* voices speak our original language and request we keep it alive by learning it ourselves and taking on the responsibility of teaching the children.

Tales of Potawatomi life and agricul-



Regalia of all colors was on display from Potawatomi from across North American at Gathering 2015.

ture from more than a century ago helped us picture in our mind what the ancestors went through to preserve our heritage for today.

Holding the newly published Potawatomi-English language dic-

tionary in my hands was a proud moment. I acknowledged the massive effort by the team of linguistic experts in Forest County to compile a document that keeps our written and spoken language a living thing. I was able to say

“*migwetch*” to many of them in person for all the hard work done over the years for our benefit.

Hearing the youth talk about positive Potawatomi values and traditions at their very own conference was a refreshing experience. They discussed the use of Native stereotypes in popular culture and sports teams, and the negative effect it has on the self-esteem of our young people.

Colorful regalia swirled around the powwow arena for two nights representing all the styles of the Potawatomi bands from the woodlands. A highlight of the week was renewed acquaintances with friends met at previous Gatherings. Potawatomi from 10 nations gathered in Carter, Wisconsin from all over North America to join together – mindful of the past, proud of the present and hopeful for the future. I’m eternally grateful to have been a small part of it all.



# Potawatomi Gathering Head Female Dancer Q&A with Catherine Howell

Catherine Katie Howell, a 15-year old Tecumseh, Oklahoma resident, had the honor of being named head female dancer for the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations this year in Carter, Wisconsin.

**What was it like to be head dancer this year?**

"I'm from Oklahoma and nobody really knows me here in Wisconsin. It is such an honor to be asked at a Gathering as big as this."

**How long have you been dancing?**

"I was brought out into the arena when I was two and began dancing at three. I am now 15, so I have been dancing quite a while. When I first began, I was dancing jingle and then I got more into the southern cloth style. Now I am dancing southern buckskin."

**Can you tell us about your regalia?**

"I wear the Comanche style war dance dress. It's usually red

and blue. The women wear that to back up the men and everything when they watch over us. We usually wear otter caps and yellow moccasins."

**What is your favorite part of dancing?**

"When you are in the arena it makes you feel good. If you are angry, bothered or whatever, it takes that away from you. You leave that in the arena and it is replaced with a good attitude and a positive mind."

**What would you say to young women who may not dance yet but are interested in learning?**

"I'd say get to it. It's not at all boring and is so much fun. It is a lot of travel if you compete but you get to meet new people and make new friends. It is an honor to have the ability to dance."

"You may not be the champion dancer but it's good to use the ability that God gave you."



Catherine Howell

## Learn traditional Native teachings with the Rabbit and Bear Paws series

Chad Solomon, a citizen of the Henvey Inlet First Nation, located in Ontario, Canada, is an author who writes and draws a series of graphic novels, picture books and puppet stories based on traditional Native teachings called *Rabbit and Bear Paws*.

Solomon sat down with the *Hownikan* to answer a few questions about this series.

**Can you tell us about *Rabbit and Bear Paws*?**

"This series is about the comical adventures of two brothers, Rabbit and Bear Paws. All the stories use humor and traditional Native teachings based on The Seven Grandfathers and The Seven Fires Prophecies. No matter how old you become, you should always be young-at-heart and laughter is the greatest medicine. This is the spirit behind the comical adventures of *Rabbit and Bear Paws* series."

**What made you decide to use puppets to tell these stories?**

"Traditionally the stories were told orally and the best way to remember an oral story is to engage with the story by hands on experience. That could come from being a puppeteer or being part of the audience. Pup-

pets are a great medium to allow the audience to learn, share and connect with a story physically. They literally become part of the story themselves and that is the best way to learn."

**Do you have a favorite puppet?**

"My favorite puppet is the one that I'm working with at the time. Each character has its own special spirit and I want to make sure I enjoy that spirit and share that spirit with our audience."

**How long have you been doing this?**

"I have been writing and drawing the stories of *Rabbit and Bear Paws* for ten years. I started doing the puppet shows and performances in 2010."

**Where can people find out more about you and your books, drawings and shows?**

"You can always follow us online at our website. Every week we have a fresh new comic strip where you can laugh along with the comical adventures of *Rabbit and Bear Paws*."

**To find out more information about the author, books, drawings or shows, visit their website [www.rabbitandbearpaws.com](http://www.rabbitandbearpaws.com).**



Chad Solomon



# Tim Zientek and housekeeping crew make Gathering more enjoyable for Tribal members

CPN Emergency Management Director, Tim Zientek, travelled 1,059 miles for the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations in Carter, Wisconsin. Along with Zientek in 2015, were CPN employees, Nick Nadeau, Jason Hawk and Connor Arrasmith.

Zientek and his crew have a multitude of responsibilities for the Potawatomi Gathering, including the transport and set-up of two camper trailers hauled by CPN vehicles. The trailers allow Tribal members to take a break from the heat and give them enough room to change into regalia for dancing. They also bring a 15-person passenger van carrying a utility trailer that holds the merchandise from FireLake Gift Shop and a six passenger golf cart.

During Gathering, Zientek and crew work from sunrise to well past sunset helping out wherever they are needed. From setting up trailers and transporting Tribal members around the campground in the golf cart or breaking down the mobile gift shop each evening, they do it all. Staying behind the scenes means that their hard work can easily be overlooked, but it is undeniable that without their effort, the experience would be lacking for Potawatomi of all bands.

This year's event was a trying one. On the trip up to Carter, one of the trailers suffered three blown tires in less than two hours. Zientek brought exactly three spare tires.

Being the emergency management



Nick Nadeau and Tim Zientek

director, Zientek is always prepared for the worst case scenario.

"Before Family Reunion Festival we start to prepare for Gathering," said Zientek. "This was a little bit different from previous years. Out of all the years I have been to Gathering this was the most mechanical issues we've ever had to deal with. From tires blowing, to trailers popping off their hitch, it all pretty much happened."

For some, Gathering may seem like a vacation. For Zientek it seems like an endless routine of hard work, but he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I get the satisfaction out of helping the elders and making the trip as comfortable and easy as possible for all of the Tribal members," said Zi-

entek. "I get to take part in some of the activities when we go and I learn something new every time."

With next year's Potawatomi Gathering of Nations at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Zientek is already planning for what circumstances may come.

"We plan on having wheelchairs available for elders as well as having a cool down area. We are going to have to plan this like Festival and will make sure we are completely ready for anything that may happen."

If you'd like to learn more about the 2016 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations to be hosted at CPN, visit [www.potawatomi.org/culture/gathering-of-nations](http://www.potawatomi.org/culture/gathering-of-nations).



CPN Housekeeping at Festival - By Daryl Talbot.

## Gathering bus ride Q&A with Miranda Hazelton

Potawatomi Leadership Program alum Miranda Hazelton is a Peltier Family-descendant who attends the University at San Antonio majoring in Modern Language Studies. On her second year attending the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations on the CPN-sponsored bus, Hazelton took time to answer some questions about her experiences at her first Gathering, her studies and her recent trip abroad.

**This is your second visit to the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations. Why did you choose to take the bus and what brought you back for this year's Gathering?**

"The bus is the most convenient way to get to Gathering as far as money and planning goes. I love road trips but sometimes the work that goes into them is tedious.

"I really enjoy the opportunity to get to know everyone else who's riding up and it gives me time to spend with my friends. I keep coming to Gathering because I want to learn from and about the other bands. I also love seeing the land that my ancestors lived on and that our language describes."

**You recently traveled to Russia, what was that experience like?**

"I spent four weeks studying abroad



Miranda Hazelton

in Russia. Three of those weeks I stayed at a dorm in Moscow where I attended language classes at a school called the Ruslanguage House. Between classes our professor took us around the city to see some of their most famous sights, including St. Basil's Cathedral, the Kremlin and Gorky Park.

"My fellow students and I also took time to explore the city on our own. During these adventures I was able to practice my language skills with native speakers and ended up having some wonderful conversations. Towards the end of the trip we took a train to St. Petersburg and spent four days seeing the sights, such as the Hermitage and Peter the Great's summer palace. It was an amazing experience and I'm already considering going back in two years."

**Why would you recommend going to Gathering?**

"Gathering is like the Family Reunion Festival on steroids. It's wonderful and you get the chance to see all the Potawatomi bands come together which gives a sense of just how big the Potawatomi tribe is as a whole. It's a first-hand experience to understand that our heritage and traditions are very much alive and are being carried on by our younger generations."



# Gun Lake Potawatomi elder black ash baskets

A 2009 documentary captures the story of Gun Lake Potawatomi tribal member Steve Pigeon and his family. The movie, "Black Ash Basketry: A Story of Cultural Resilience," details Pigeon's teachings and experiences making traditional Native American black ash baskets. Similar to their work in the film, Pigeon and his family gathered around a small tent during the 2015 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in Carter, Wisconsin to practice the age-old tradition of black ash basket weaving.

Pigeon grew up around basket weaving, learning the skill from his mother and father who made baskets as young children as well. Pigeon introduced his wife Kitt to the practice and she eventually apprenticed under her father-in-law.

"My dad was really patient with her and taught her everything," said Steve Pigeon. "She would write down like a recipe in a book how to make each kind of basket and each different design."

Continuing the family tradition, Kitt taught their children how to make



Steve Pigeon

baskets, a practice that continues to ripple down to their spouses and children.

The skills have passed easily between the generations, but the art of basket making is not without challenges. In 2002, an invasive species of insect called the Emerald Ash Borer was found in North America. The beetles eat into the bark of ash trees and burrow deep in the trunk, cutting off

access of nutrients the tree needs to survive. Currently there are efforts to control the bug, but the beetle has already done quite a bit of damage to the northeastern forest in the U.S.

"There's just billions of bugs laying billions of eggs and they don't seem to miss a tree," said Pigeon. "There is just dead ash all over Michigan. Down in the Lower Peninsula we've only been able to find small ones; there are just not any big ones left."

As a result, Pigeon and his family have not been able to make as many baskets as they once did. There is a state-led effort to halt the borers destruction though. The Pokagan Band of Potawatomi have recently begun releasing the borer's natural predator, the parasitic wasp, in the forests of Michigan to combat the scourge.

However, the limited supply of trees has not stopped the family's three living generations of weavers from creating and teaching ash basket making.

"The guys pound the wood and the girls work up the wood to get it ready

to make into baskets," said Pigeon. "Right now I do all the whittling and make all the handles and rims. Everyone knows how to do everything, so anyone can make any kind of basket they want."

Pigeon and his family enjoy teaching their trade and teach large and small groups. When they do have the wood available, anyone from the family can make at least two to three baskets a day. Besides making small intricate baskets, they also make big picnic baskets and clothes hampers. Pigeon explained that they copy basket patterns they've seen in museums and old pictures to keep the same designs that the people have had forever.

"There's not enough basket makers right now, though I hope it continues to be a tradition and cultural practice," said Pigeon. "I just wish more people would learn how to do it."

The Pigeon's family baskets are for sale in Oklahoma through FireLake Gift Shop, which can be reached at 405-878-5830 or by visiting [giftshop.potawatomi.org/](http://giftshop.potawatomi.org/).



Some of the Pigeon's creations



For more information about Pigeon and his family [lifewaysinstitute.org/lifewaysinstitute/Black Ash Basketry Film.html](http://lifewaysinstitute.org/lifewaysinstitute/Black_Ash_Basketry_Film.html)

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**LOCATED INSIDE THE CPN CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER**

## A letter from the 2015 Gathering Potawatomi Princess

By Dania Wahwasuck,  
Prairie Band Potawatomi

Bozho!

I am the newly crowned Potawatomi Princess Dania Wahwasuck. I am granddaughter of Badger and Karen Wahwasuck. My Potawatomi name is Skep-gon-ko-kwa and I am Thunder Clan. I was recently crowned the 2015-2016 Miss Potawatomi at the Gathering held in Carter, Wisconsin, hosted by the Forest County Band of Potawatomi.

Being a Native woman in today's society means a lot to me. I want to represent my people with pride. Women are the backbones of our society and as such we need to hold that title with honor. We need to be educated, well mannered, know our traditions, family history and culture. Native American women also need to be great leaders, because in today's society we are no longer confined to our traditional roles as caregivers. We are able



to spread our wings and become whatever we want.

It is my duty as a Native American woman to overcome and exceed negative stereotypes. I am a very proud young Potawatomi woman and as such it is my responsibility to show my peers that we can succeed. Being Miss Potawatomi is truly an honor I will represent my Potawatomi people with pride.



# Hobby turns into career for CPN Director of Transportation Gary Smith

For longtime employees at CPN a constant topic of conversation is the family-like atmosphere the Tribe has created. Director of Transportation and longtime hot rod enthusiast, Gary Smith, attests to the claim made by others. Recently, Smith, who keeps the Tribe’s wheels running smoothly, sat down with the *Hownikan* for an interview.

**How long have you worked for the Tribe?**

“I’ve been here for 20 years. I started in 1995. One day I went to pick up my wife, Pam, who works at the front desk of the CPN Administrative Building. Rocky came up to us and started talking about creating a Vo-Tech for Native American students and asked me if I would head that up and if I could do it. I told him yes and started the following week.

“We never really got the Vo-Tech School off the ground, so I started taking care of the vehicles in the meantime. We had 11 vehicles total then and now we have 332 cars and pickups. I have had no formal mechanical training; I was simply just someone who liked hot rods. I’ve always worked on cars, so I knew enough to get that stuff done and have actually learned a lot since I’ve been here.”

**What does the transportation department do?**

“Here at the CPN shop we do all of the light mechanical work, not any of the heavy stuff such as replacing engines. With the new cars we have bought, we have never had a catastrophic repair. I think it’s because



Gary Smith

we service them every 3,500 miles and try and take good care of them. I am also over the excess property for the Tribe so I go out and procure the excess equipment that gets donated to CPN. This is one way that we get some of our vehicles, machinery and equipment.”

**How was your department grown over the years?**

“This department has really grown along with the Tribe. I started out in a little shop by FireLake Golf Course until 10 years ago when the Tribe bought the old Pratt’s warehouse off of Kickapoo and 7th Street in Shawnee, Oklahoma. I worked for about four years on my own and then hired a mechanic to help with the growing pains we were dealing with.

“Now I have two full time employees under me, Bud and Sandy, and one summer employee, Jacob. Bud does

all the maintenance on the vehicles and Sandy details all of the cars. This place wouldn’t run as smooth if it weren’t for those two.”

**What got you into working on cars?**

“My brother-in-law Monty Bo-

dine is who got me into cars. When I was young he had a hot rod shop in Oklahoma City behind his house. He would work on cars for big-name drag racers back then. That’s how I got to meet a lot of those famous racers, so I was around that kind of thing a lot of the time. That gave me a love for hot rods. I’ve had several drag cars myself and what I really enjoy is the fabrication of them. I have built or owned more than a hundred vehicles and have sold them all over the nation.”

**What do like about working for CPN?**

“I love my job and love what I do. The Tribe has been great to Pam and I. Rocky and Linda are the best to work for and the family atmosphere here is something that I really enjoy. If Rocky would have asked me that day to work on cars I would have said no, but I’m thankful for this career and it really has been a wonderful time in my life.”



Two of Gary Smith's projects, a 1941 Willys Coupe and a 1950 Chevy Pickup.

## Language with Justin: October 2015

By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Language Department

We are keeping busy in the language department. We recently created and made public a self-paced online ‘Beginning Potawatomi I’ course. The address for the course is <http://language.potawatomi.org>.

There is no cost for the course. All you have to do is create an account and then wait for us to confirm you. We have had some issues with an error message being sent out after you create an account. If you get this please ignore it. We are working to get rid of this.

Our networking department has been working with us to make sure all of our videos are streaming, which will allow for faster connections. The program is viewable on any computer or cell phone. We hope that by making Potawatomi more accessible to our members at a time that they can accommodate, it will allow more folks to learn our language and traditions.



CPN Language Department staff member Ivan Ozbolt, Ph.D. takes a course on Potawatomi music.

Since opening the course, we have had 185 students register and participate. We have folks who have signed in all over the country and some even in other countries.

We are currently working putting the finishing touches on ‘Beginning

Potawatomi II.’ We have begun creation of a youth version which we hope will meet the needs of many of you with children to teach your kids some of our language and traditions. Our goal is to finish up the ‘Beginner II’ course by October. We hope to have a version of the kids’ course up

by December if not a little before that.

The kids’ course will have more games, songs, silly spoofs and cultural teachings for the kids. It will be less structured and simplified in the amount of content.

I hope that folks will share this information with other family who would be interested in the new on-line course.

*Migwetch.*



Scan this QR code to visit the online Potawatomi language course.



# FireLake Golf Course favorite Colton Sonsala coaches at CPN wellness camp

Regulars of FireLake Golf Course often see course staff members and other CPN employees finishing off a round in the company of a skinny young man wearing a weathered baseball cap. A favorite amongst the numerous Tribal employees and FireLake regulars, 17-year-old Colton Sonsala used some of the skills he's picked up at Shawnee, Oklahoma's only public course to give back at the first CPN Employment and Training Sports Camp this summer.

Sonsala, was the lead coach at the health and wellness camp this year after spending the 2014 camp as a helper.

His father is golf course employee, Steve Sonsala, who was an acclaimed junior golfer, while his grandfather was a lifetime member at the Elks Golf Course, a private club in Shawnee. It was no surprise then that Colton began playing golf at the age of three with his father and grandfather.

For the last ten years, Sonsala has been a fixture at the FireLake Golf Course, spending hours on the putting clock and chipping green.

"I met Colton years ago through his dad. He was interested in golf and started playing regularly. He would practice for hours and hours on the putting green," said FireLake Golf Course Director Chris Chesser. "Through all of the hard work he has put in on the putting green, he is known as the best putter at FireLake Golf Course."

He regularly plays with CPN Wellness Center Fitness Trainer, Sarah Lawerance and her husband, CPN

tribal member Billy Lawerance.

"Billy and I would see him on the putting clock and we would just say hello. After about a year, Colton jumped into our cart and began chatting with us. The rest is history," said Lawerance. "He is like my surrogate son. Last summer, he and Billy played in a three day golf tournament with 30 plus teams and they won their flight."

Sonsala has entered many tournaments as an individual and has placed in the top 15 in every high school tournament in which he's competed. He won this year's 'C' flight in the FireLake Classic and even had his first hole in one on FireLake's sixteenth hole in the summer of 2014.

"It has been a pleasure to watch him grow up and develop into a very good golfer," said Chesser.

Besides playing golf with his close friends and family, Sonsala has had the opportunity to play with many different people. His favorite round was playing with John Schneider from the Dukes of Hazard. He also got to meet one of his favorite golfers, Rickie Fowler.

With all of his experience, it made Sonsala the prime candidate to be this year's lead coach at the camp.

The free camp was held on Tuesdays and Thursdays the entire month of July and accommodated 20 campers from ages 7 to 12. During the first two hours of camp, the kids worked on golf while the last two hours consisted of fitness challenges and obstacle courses. CPN Health Services dietitians even came to teach the



*Rickie Fowler and Colton Sonsala*

campers how to make after-school healthy snacks.

The golf part of camp took place at the FireLake Golf Course. For many campers, this was their first exposure to the sport. Each camper was fit with a set of clubs and Sonsala worked with the kids on golf grip, the different clubs and swing technique.

"He enjoyed helping with the camp last year and was honored to be lead

coach this year," said Lawerance. "He was excited to share some of his knowledge with the campers and is already looking forward to the camp next year."

If you would like to find out more information about next year's camp please call 405-598-0797. If you would like to learn more about Colton, just say hello.

## FireLodge Tribal Youth update: October 2015

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

October begins with the Tribal youth program sponsoring "A Walk for Hope," consisting of a 5k run and a one mile walk to help raise awareness for suicide prevention. We are expecting participation by more than 200 adults and children. This event will be a collaboration between the CPN Health Services, the Indian Child Welfare Department, FireLake Designs, the CPN Health Services Behavioral Health Program, the CPN Child Development Center and the FireLodge Tribal Youth Program.

The run will begin at the P.L.A.C.E. Gymnasium and wind through the Father Murphy Elder Housing edition before finishing back at the gym. Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Dr. Glenna Stumbling-bear-Riddle are both set to speak on the importance of suicide prevention.

We at FireLodge are also proud to announce additions to the staff.



*FireLodge Tribal Youth members Rakayla Wallace and Mckenzie Lupo enjoying lunch.*

Coby Lehman will join the staff as our cultural activities coordinator and Michael Logan as the cultural activities program coordinator. Both young men bring a wealth of Native American knowledge and teaching, and we know that our students will continue to benefit from their mentorship.

Some of the activities they'll lead

the youth in include talking circles, Potawatomi cultural practices and teachings like the medicine wheel and physical activities like stick ball. They are set to end the month by teaching the youth about storytelling of tribal myths and legends. Our youth program participants will then in turn get to tell their own stories as part of learning the tradition. We'll

also be sending the youth to attend the ever popular Chickasaw Festival in Tishomingo.

We continue on with our physical activities and intramural competitions, including a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, Navajo Kickball, mini-putt at FireLake Mini-Putt, an ultimate Frisbee tournament and badminton competitions.

The Tribal youth also participated in an anti-bullying poster contest and a breast cancer awareness poster contest.

In academics, we're proud to report that as of September, each Tribal youth received their progress reports, and at the time of printing, we had a 99 percent no-fail rate. That's a good start to the school year, and keeps up with last year's program results.

If you would like to learn more about FireLodge Tribal Youth Program or the P.L.A.C.E., please contact me at [dgreene@potawatomi.org](mailto:dgreene@potawatomi.org).



# Tribal independence increasingly a reality thanks to staff of CPN OSG office

For decades, tribes across the U.S. have made strides at securing economic independence from gaming revenues through the use of federal grant funding opportunities. At Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the handling of these sometimes obscure and almost always difficult to decipher federal funding opportunities often fall under a special office of professionals. Grants and Self-Governance Analyst Kasie Nichols serves in one such role, and since 2010 has played a vital role in helping the Tribe increase funding from a variety of federal programs.

A Dickson High School graduate from the Ardmore, Oklahoma area, Nichols did not set out on her professional and academic careers in hopes of being a grants analyst. Far from it, this southeastern Oklahoma native pursued a career in the healthcare-related field of biotechnology research.

“I was interested in genetic engineering and other lab-related fields,” explained Nichols of her decision to pursue such a taxing academic field. “I wanted experience in genetic engineering research for drug development, but not pharmacology as I had no desire to become a pharmacist.”

She attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant as a student in biological health sciences, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree with a minor in chemistry.

The professor of her organic chemistry class at Southeastern encouraged her to apply to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center’s intensive microbiology and immunology Ph.D. program.

“The interview process wasn’t pleasant, but I got in and received a lot of on-the-job training,” remembered Nichols. “I was placed on a National Institutes of Health training grant. As graduate students, we didn’t receive scholarships, but rather earned stipends for our training.”

It was through these experiences as an immunology researcher on cell-mediated immune responses –



Kasie Nichols

which is responsible for the inflammation seen in afflictions like poison ivy and tuberculosis – and the use of her data in scientific publications and NIH grant proposals, which paid off for her future career at CPN. As her studies continued Nichols found that her heart wasn’t in that type of career. It would require countless hours of isolation in a research lab while also writing highly competitive research grants in hopes of securing funds for her livelihood. She left the PhD program after completing a master’s in microbiology and immunology.

“I remember thinking to myself ‘I love immunology research, but don’t like conducting research on animals, even if they’re just mice! I’ll never have much of a family life if my career is this demanding. I just don’t want to do this for the rest of my life,’” said Nichols.

A long stint in a research adminis-

tration office at OU Health Sciences Center provided a much needed change of direction, but still left Nichols wanting to pursue something closer to home.

“A position came open at CPN and (current-CPN Paralegal) Vicki Lofton, who I met at church, told me about a grants-related position here and encouraged me to apply. The self-governance office needed another person, and I had always told Vicki that if anything ever came open with the Tribe, I wanted to apply,” said Nichols.

Though steeped in experience in the medical and research fields, Nichols says she was interested in CPN due to the diversity of its career options.

“It was the only place I felt like there were similar opportunities like those in the OKC metro area. It reminded me a lot of a big campus with vast-

ly different sectors and departments where I could pursue a career.”

With her attention to detail honed in research labs combined with her knowledge of grant administration, Nichols quickly fell in with the office of self-governance’s mission of making the Tribe as self-sufficient as possible. Chances are if you have been a Tribal employee, used a CPN program or facility since 2010, you have been directly impacted by Nichols’ work.

“Although Kasie first joined CPN with over a decade of grant writing experience, she was unfamiliar with the unique qualities of a Native American tribe,” said Self-Governance Director Rhonda Butcher. “However, she made it her personal mission to understand Indian Country. Using her wealth of expertise as a springboard, she has since become an incredible advocate for Indian Country and has been remarkably successful in securing grants for our Nation.”

In fact, the next time the tornado sirens wail at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort, those taking cover in the secure walls of a FEMA safe room facility currently under construction are stepping into a physical embodiment of her and her fellow self-governance office employees’ work.

“That project was a great combination between CPN Director of Emergency Management Tim Zientek and our office in terms of building relationships with FEMA, addressing technical grant requirements and ultimately securing a nearly \$2 million grant that was highly competitive. It was just the latest great example of the dedicated team we have here at the Tribe.”

From economic development projects, to after-school programs to the safe room, grant funding opportunities pay dividends that the Tribe can build its independence upon for decades to come in large part to the work of Nichols and her fellow staff members in the department of self-governance.

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CPN HOWNIKAN

## Fall CPN Family Feast for Districts 1 and 2

NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> • 10AM TO 2PM

In the Church Hall of the Little Falls Presbyterian Church  
6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22207  
(703) 538-5230 • [www.littlefallschurch.org](http://www.littlefallschurch.org)

Free parking, handicap accessible. Please bring a dish to share (family style). We will provide entrées and drinks. Wear moccasins if you have them (celebrating Rock Your Mocs week).

RSVP by November 7 to [ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org) or [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org) or leave a message with your contact details and names of attendees and how many are children with their ages on the District 1 CPN voicemail number at 1 (888) 741-5767 or District 2 at 1 (866) 961-6988.





# Tribal climate change plan moves forward with federal grant funds

In July 2014, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn announced that the Obama Administration would dedicate almost \$10 million to help Native American tribal governments prepare and adapt to climate change.

“Impacts of climate change are increasingly evident for American Indian and Alaska Native communities and, in some cases, threaten the ability of tribal nations to carry on their cultural traditions and beliefs,” said Assistant Secretary Washburn of the initiative. “We have heard directly from Tribes about climate change and how it dramatically affects their communities, many of which face extreme poverty as well as economic development and infrastructure challenges. These impacts test their ability to protect and preserve their land and water for future generations. We are committed to providing the means and measures to help tribes in their efforts to protect and mitigate the effects of climate change on their land and natural resources.”

Using federal grant funds like these, several CPN departments are preparing strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change and habitat destruction in the Citizen Potawatomi jurisdiction. The CPN Realty Department is utilizing BIA funding opportunities to combat the proliferation of two invasive wildlife species, eastern red cedar and feral hogs, on Tribal trust land.



*Protecting CPN lands, such as those at Iron Horse Industrial Park, will become more important as climate change impacts the Nation.*

Through the CPN Department of Environmental Protection, the Tribe is implementing two other grant programs. The first, a grant worth \$5,000, is a partnership grant with the University of Oklahoma Regional and City Planning Program. Funds will be used to identify vulnerabilities and potential impacts of climate change on Tribal resources. A second, larger grant worth more than \$73,000 will fund the development of a climate change adapta-

tion plan, which will focus on how the Tribe can adapt to vulnerabilities identified in the assessment.

“The primary concentration of the climate change planning initiative will be water related, looking at how potential flooding and drought events may affect CPN in the future as a result of climate change. We will bring together key players from across CPN to discuss how climate change can affect them and CPN as a whole,”

said Tara Hammer, the Tribal Energy and Sustainability Specialist.

The project will host training programs and workshops for Tribal employees and leaders about the hazards facing CPN when it comes to climate change. From this input, CPN will develop a Tribal government climate adaptation plan containing vulnerability assessments, studies, data analysis, and suggestions to mitigate the negative impact on the environment.



## CPN Veterans report: October 2015



By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

*Bozho,*

An issue that is of primary concern in the U.S. at this time, other than the 2016 election, is the care of our country's warriors. The Office of Warrior Care Policy offers access to several benefits and services, including compensation, caregiver support and care management, that can provide assistance to wounded, ill, and injured service members and their families as they identify needs and shortfalls in resources and begin searching for solutions. Check out their care menu at: [www.warriorcare.mil](http://www.warriorcare.mil).

Our trip to Wisconsin to the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in August was quite an adventure, with three blowouts on one of the trailers on the first day going up and a burned out bearing on the trip coming back. One of our WWII veterans suffered an injury and required special care on the trip, but he is doing well now. The weather was good though. Some of us learned to make bows and arrows the old traditional warrior way of the Comanche and we tried them out with great success. Those warriors knew what they were doing. The best part of the Gathering was the honor they gave the veterans at the Grand Entry. The people of Wisconsin really appreciate their veter-

ans. It seemed that every town had a special memorial for them. I still fill with pride and gratitude when strangers recognize me as a veteran and thank me for my service.

We also would like to mention that after a vote during the Family Festival's CPN Vets Meeting, that effective June 2016, the annual dues for veterans residing outside of Oklahoma will be \$10. The meeting also held a vote which affirmed that the CPN Veterans Organization is open to non-Tribal veterans who are spouses of CPN Tribal Members.

Though it will take place before this edition of the *Hownikan* hits your mailboxes, on September 26, 2015 we will hold our Vietnam Veterans Banquet. We have included a scaled-down version of the event's poster here for those who might want it.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

*Migwetch.*



Meet your legislator: District 12’s Paul Schmidlkofer

Though nine of the CPN Tribal Legislature’s 13 members are spread across the U.S. to represent the many Citizen Potawatomi living outside of Oklahoma, the state does boast five at-large legislators. Many live within a short drive of CPN’s jurisdiction, and one, District 12’s Paul Schmidlkofer, lives a stone’s throw of the Tribe’s administrative center.

The *Hownikan* sat down with Schmidlkofer to speak about his life outside of CPN, history with the Tribe and what he sees as a resident of Shawnee, Oklahoma and Citizen Potawatomi Tribal member and legislator.

Where are you from originally?

“I am an Air Force brat, born at Altus Air Force Base in Altus, Oklahoma. We traveled a lot as kids with stops in Texas, Minnesota, Florida, and Oklahoma. My dad retired from the service to Oklahoma.

“He was born here and was raised on a farm east of Shawnee. My grandparents still lived here and I believe that had a lot to do with him choosing to come back and settle here after retirement.

“I graduated from Tecumseh High School. I have an undergraduate degrees from Oklahoma State University in Industrial Design and St. Gregory’s in Social Science. My graduate degree is from East Central University in Educational Administration. I also have post graduate education from the University of Central Missouri in Engineering Education.

“I’m a father of two, Candace and Bryan, and a grandfather of six, Colton, Megan, Nick, Walker, Seth, and Meghan. I’ve been married to my wife Janie for 37 years.”

What do you do for a living?

“Currently I am an instructor in the Pre-Engineering Academy at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee. Prior to this I was an Associate Mechanical Design Engineer at Seagate Technologies in Oklahoma City for 14 years.

Why did you get into that?

“I was considering a career change when this job became available. I have spent a good part of my life working with young people and this had the appearance of being a job that offered an opportunity to continue this.

“I really didn’t know if I would stay or not at first. But now that I am working on year 22, I think maybe it is going to work out.”

Did you grow up in a traditional home in a sense that you were raised knowing and practicing your Potawatomi heritage?

“I suspect I probably had more exposure than most members in our Nation. As many know, my father was the chairman of the Tribe for,

I believe, three terms in the 1970s. I was fortunate to have been able to learn some of our art from Tribal elders as a youth in a program the Nation had then. I still practice some of them occasionally.

“But to be honest, time has taken its toll on me and my hands don’t allow for a lot of it anymore. I still make a couple prayer pipes a year if time and a warm, dry day align.”

How did you first become involved with the Tribe?

“We were always told we were Potawatomi. Because of my dad’s military service we moved every couple years. So I was probably 11 or 12 years old before my first real exposure to the Tribe took place.

“As a youth I attended many of the powwows and other activities the Tribe had. I still remember going with my dad delivering fresh vegetables we raised on our farm to members during powwow.

“The Tribe used to give everyone a meat supplement when it could afford to do so. Usually it was beef, but there were a year or two where buffalo was delivered. Dad would bring the vegetables and share them to help people out. I still remember

or remember this old committee unless they had either served on it or had reason to interact with it. Most of the service here was just standing up and smiling with a wave the few times you were recognized. But it was fairly active during my last term. One outcome of my time on this committee was I became quite well versed in the Nation’s constitution and how it applied to the operation of the organization.

“This service led to my interest as a member of the previous business committee-form of government. With the business committee, we had five members who served as the Nation’s legislature. They were the chairman, vice chairman, secretary/treasurer and two committee members.

“This form of government served the Nation for many years. It was also the form I first was introduced to as a young man. I served in this capacity for several years before the constitutional revision we had recently. This allowed me the opportunity to be involved in that reform. It was an interesting time for the Nation.



Paul Schmidlkofer

be here forever and with the loss of their leadership, we lose institutional history. Many of the things that have happened in our Nation were the first time it was ever done.

“We had to learn from our mistakes as we progressed. It’s important to keep as many people involved as we can that have been through this so as to not repeat mistakes. We will need to be very careful to not allow wholesale change of government. I completely support getting as many people involved that we can. My point is we need to be careful not to lose all that we have learned over the years.

“Traditionally we cherished our elders for their wisdom and guidance. I think as a Nation we need to balance our desire to change with our need to survive.

“Currently we are experiencing an intrusion into our government from outside sources. Most of this really boils down to money. Some people have trouble accepting that, but it pretty much is just that simple. You can frame it in a lot of different pictures but it always comes down to some entity wanting to tap into our success.

“The Nation has done a good job of re-investing our success back into new growth. This growth has had a positive effect on all the local neighbors. One would think they would be happy with that. We have created so many new jobs that have helped elevate the local economies. But with our success they have lost some of their control over how monies have been spent.

“This is despite the fact that we have paid for many of the projects that influence their quality of life. Roads, bridges, water projects and other basic services that help improve the lives of both our members and theirs. I would like to caution here also that I believe most of our neighbors appreciate and support us. The problem comes from a select few. We will continue to be good neighbors.”



Paul Schmidlkofer with his family at the 2015 CPN Family Reunion Festival.

Dad taking me to the General Council as a youth. I sure didn’t understand why he felt the need to drag me to the complex and make me watch a bunch of grownups argue and shout at each other. I still chuckle when I think back to that.”

Why did you run for office as a Tribal legislator?

“The Nation has given so much to me over the years I always felt it was my responsibility to give something back. My dad always imparted the sense of duty to others in us as kids, so helping the Nation was always a natural move.

“My first position with the nation was as a member of the grievance committee where I served for five years. Most people do not even know

“We had always known we had members all over this country, and world for that matter, but they were limited in their ability to participate. Given the record, I still believe the change was the right one, not that there is much discussion otherwise. We were concerned in the early planning stages though. We really didn’t know for sure if there was anyone interested and willing to serve outside of Oklahoma.

With the experience you have, what do you see as the greatest challenge CPN will face in the coming years?

“Our current leadership has led the Nation through some exceptional growth. They have invested their lives in building our Nation’s enterprises and programs. They will not



Lifesaving 911 call: Dispatcher meets mom, baby

By Kim Morava, Editor of the Shawnee News-Star

The below article originally ran in the Aug. 25, 2015 edition of the Shawnee News-Star. It has been reprinted here with their express written permission.

It was an emotional weekend for two mothers — the mom of an infant found not breathing and the dispatcher who had a calming voice on the other end of a 911 call while CPR was performed to save the baby’s life.

“It was humbling to hold that baby,” said Stephanie Brewer, a Pottawatomie County dispatcher who met that baby over the weekend.

Cheryl Stowe and her daughter, Elizabeth, who turns 2 months old today, met Brewer at the 911 center, where happy tears were shed.

Earlier this month, a normal afternoon nap turned scary when Stowe checked on Elizabeth in her bassinet and found she wasn’t breathing — her lips and fingers were turning blue.

“I started chest compressions and called 911...I was freaking out,” Stowe said.

On the other end of that 911 call was Brewer, who answers many 911 calls on a given shift.

“It was like any other day — you don’t know what you’re going to get,” Brewer said, adding this time it was a scared mother on the other end of that call.



Stephanie Brewer accepts the CPN Police Department’s Lifesaving Award from Tribal Police Chief Dr. Jim Collard.

“She was crying as soon as I answered,” Brewer said, as the mother called for help because her baby wasn’t breathing.

Brewer, an emergency medical dispatcher, began protocols to talk the mother through CPR while an ambulance was on its way to the call in a rural area of Tecumseh.

Stowe, who said she knows CPR, began chest compressions, but in all the worry, she said she wasn’t sure if she was doing it right. She was home with the baby alone and found soothing help in Brewer’s voice.

“She helped calmed me down,”

Stowe said. After two breaths and what felt like hours, Stowe said, Elizabeth finally started breathing on her own.

Brewer could hear both of them crying.

“It was a relief cry for her,” she said.

For Brewer, a mother of three boys, it was a joyous sound.

Elizabeth was taken to OU Medical Center for a series of tests.

Three weeks later, Stowe, who said Elizabeth is doing well, said doctors have no explanation for what hap-

pened. Elizabeth is wearing a heart monitor for a couple more weeks.

“They couldn’t find anything,” Stowe said, adding doctors believe she prevented an episode of SIDS — Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

During Saturday’s meeting, the two moms — who now know each other through that 911 experience — shared a hug.

“It was awesome getting to meet the person who helped us through,” Stowe said.

Brewer said she is thankful for her EMD training, which allowed her to instruct the mom with step-by-step instruction to help save Elizabeth’s life.

“It was God’s will...he just used us to make sure,” Brewer said.

For Brewer, it was nice to see the happy outcome.

“A lot of times we don’t know what happened — we’re just the voice on the other end,” she said.

Brewer has been a dispatcher in Pottawatomie County for six years. She is employed by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and handles dispatch services for Pottawatomie County 911.

On September 14, 2015, Brewer was awarded the CPN Police Department’s Lifesaving Award by Tribal Police Chief Dr. Jim Collard for her actions.

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CP-84 (821 84) 80 JOSEPH EPATESKA ACRES

An undivided 53/60 restricted interest in the E/2 NW/4 of Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 97 (821 97) 80 CLARRISA MARS ACRES

An undivided 146/165 restricted interest in the E/2 NW/4 of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 116 (821 116) 80 JOHN BAPTISTE ACRES

An undivided 683/720 restricted interest in the E/2 SW/4 of Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 219 (821 219) 24.73 ALEXANDER RHODD ACRES

An undivided 1171/1400 restricted interest in the S/2 S/2 SW/4 NE/4 & Lot 03 E/2 S/2 SE/4 NE/4 of Section 33, Township 8 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 326 (821 326) 40 MYRA NA-HK-SA ACRES

An undivided 67/72 restricted interest in the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 3, Township 5 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 326 (821 326) 40 MYRA NA-HK-SA ACRES

An undivided 67/72 restricted interest in the NE/4 NW/4 of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 900 (821 900) 10 MADELINE DENTON ACRES

An undivided 193/270 restricted interest in the E/2 SE/4 SW/4 SE/4 & W/2 SW/4 SE/4 SE/4 of Section 6, Township 7 North, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, OK

CP 900 (821 900) 80 MADELINE DENTON ACRES

An undivided 193/270 restricted interest in the E/2 NE/4 of Section 7, Township 7 North, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, OK

CP 87 (821 87) 80 ELLEN YOTT ACRES

An undivided 167/200 restricted interest in the NE/4 SE/4 & SE/4 NE/4 of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 100 (821 100) 80 JOSEPH HAAS ACRES

An undivided 167/200 restricted interest in the NW/4 SW/4 & SW/4 NW/4 of Section 3, Township 5 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 1325 (821 1325) 10 HARRIET PRATT ACRES

An undivided 1/1 restricted interest in the SW/4 SW/4 NW/4 of Section 13, Township 8 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, OK

CP 510 (821 510) 80 ROZETTE TROMBLA ACRES

An undivided 16661593/24192000 restricted interest in the NE/4 SW/4 & NW/4 SE/4 of Section 25, Township 8 North, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, OK

Must be leased together



# Q&A with Robin Wall Kimmerer, Ph.D.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry professor Robin Wall Kimmerer, Ph.D. is a leading indigenous environmental scientist and writer in indigenous studies and environmental science at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She holds a Bachelor of Science from her current employer, and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. A widely published author and recent speaker at the United Nations, Dr. Kimmerer spoke with the Hownikan about her work, both inside and outside the classroom.

## Where are you from?

"I am from the maple forests of upstate New York and live today in the countryside outside of Syracuse, NY, where I'm a professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I live in the ancestral homelands of the Onondaga Nation, who are now my neighbors."

## What Potawatomi family are you from?

"I am from the Vieux/Johnson family. My immediate family ended up in New York State, by way of the boarding schools - as my grandfather was sent from Oklahoma to Carlisle Indian School and then chose to settle here after leaving Carlisle."

## You're a founder for the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. In layman's terms, what does that mean? What practical work does the CNPE do?

"Part of our work lies in the realm of bringing indigenous knowledge into the education of mainstream environmental science and natural resources students, who for the most part are not aware of the ways that indigenous knowledge can contribute to environmental problem solving. So we are trying to 'indigenize' the science curriculum by exposing them to indigenous environmental values, practices and philosophies as potential approaches for sustainability."

"Science is a powerful tool for environmental problem solving, but it's not the only one. Traditional ecological knowledge offers important insights as well, based on our people's long knowledge of how to live sustainably on the land. Many of our environmental issues lie at the intersection of nature and culture, so we use cultural knowledge as a partner to western scientific tools to envision new environmental solutions. Traditional knowledge includes ethics and values related to the environment, of course and many environmental decisions are values-based. We highlight the environmental accomplishments and leadership of indigenous nations, as well as discuss the serious challenges faced as lands in Indian Country that experience environmental threats."

"Students can now earn a minor in indigenous issues and the environment. We hope to train the next generation of environmental professionals who

are well equipped to serve as allies to indigenous nations in environmental problem solving. Our graduates should be well versed in treaty rights and traditional ecological knowledge - as well as with the tools of environ-



Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer

mental science.

"We also work in increasing access to higher education in environmental fields for Native students, by educational outreach to young Native students through an annual Native Earth Environmental Youth Camp and by programs in the schools. We offer fellowships and mentor programs for Native college students and are working in partnership with several tribal colleges to provide research and education opportunities for tribal youth in areas such as climate change resilience and forest management. We need more Native scientists and CNPE supports students in that goal."

"Our third major area is collaborative environmental work with indigenous nations. We jointly create programs related to ecosystem restoration, plant knowledge revitalization, environmental education-driven by the needs of the tribes who request assistance with environmental protection."

"The center website is [www.esf.edu/nativepeoples](http://www.esf.edu/nativepeoples) and we encourage Native students to contact us for thinking about careers in natural resources and the environment."

## You are also an advocate for the restoration of peoples' relationships with the land. Why is this important, especially in terms of Native American communities?

"Some of my work as a scientist has involved restoration of damaged ecosystems, but what I've come to realize is that it's not just the land which is broken, but our relationship with land. We can't hope to restore land, if we don't also heal our relationship with nature. Restore respect and care and compassion - to remember that the land is our sacred responsibility - and our teacher."

"The restoration of relationships to land is especially important in Native American communities for a whole

host of reasons. For example, our Potawatomi language and culture is deeply rooted in the land, revitalizing language is part of restoring relationship to land. Our traditional diet is also a reflection of our land and our

knowledge of the land. We know that the shift from the land-based traditional diet to the modern industrial diet of processed foods is causing many health issues, such as the epidemic in diabetes. The Food Sovereignty movement is a powerful way of restoring relationship with land in Indian Country. Land is strongly tied to our identity as Native people, so knowing the land is knowing yourself and your culture."

"And besides, when you know the plants, you just feel more at home wherever you go, you know that you'll be taken care of. I write a lot about gratitude in my book and gratitude is one of our first cultural responsibilities to the life-giving land."

## You're a prodigious author, but what was the motivation in writing your latest award-winning publication, "Braiding Sweetgrass: indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants"?

"My motivation for writing this book comes from the sense that because plants have taken care of our people for so long, I needed to speak up on their behalf, so that people would fall in love with plants again and honor all that they give us."

"People have forgotten that plants were once regarded as our oldest teachers. I wanted to help people remember that and to think about how we might be better students. The stories shared in "Braiding Sweetgrass" are based in the teachings of why we braid *wiingaashk* (sweetgrass). This sacred plant, is recognized as the "hair of Mother Earth" and so we braid it as a tangible sign of our loving care for the earth. That braid has three strands-which I think of in the book as three different kinds of knowledge: indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the knowledge of the plants themselves."

"As a university professor and a plant

scientist I am all too well aware that indigenous knowledge is not often valued or included in environmental decision making. I wanted to change that, because the indigenous worldview of respect and reciprocity carries the values that we need to survive. So each story is woven of all three kinds of thinking, indigenous, scientific and botanical- and especially my experience as a Native woman trying to bring these ways together. Many of the stories in the book were shared with me by wonderful and generous Potawatomi people, for which I am deeply grateful."

## Tell me a bit about your recent testimony before the United Nations General Assembly.

"I was deeply honored to be invited to speak at the UN in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day in April 2015. The message that I carried was based on an integration of sustainability science and the wisdom of traditional ecological knowledge of native peoples. It was a very moving and humbling experience to speak of the significance of indigenous environmental philosophy before such a powerful audience."

"I was thinking about how the Carlisle Indian School, which my grandfather attended, was intended of course to eliminate indigenous ways of thinking - and how amazing that his granddaughter was now being asked to share indigenous knowledge, as an inspiration for protecting Mother Earth."

"I remember an elder once saying that we have protected our traditional knowledge against so many assaults and that one day the whole world would need it. In this time of accelerating climate change and the Age of the Sixth Extinction, we know that traditional teachings of care for the land and water, of respect for the living earth are more critical than ever."

"I spoke primarily about the traditional teachings of reciprocity, the theme of my book "Braiding Sweetgrass," of how we cannot just endlessly take from the earth without giving back. I tried to make a case - both scientific and ethical - for the many ways that we humans can reciprocate the gifts of the Earth."

"A major theme was that member states should support and protect indigenous peoples land and knowledge in their homelands."

"A quote that delegates responded to especially was 'Human beings were given the abilities and the responsibility to care for the rest of creation. When we look about us at the beauty of the Earth, do we want to be the one species that threw it all away? Do we want to be the ones who violated the fundamental laws of reciprocity? As we give thanks for the Earth, will we live in such a way that the Earth can be grateful for us?'"

**To learn more about Dr. Kimmerer's work, visit the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment [www.esf.edu/nativepeoples](http://www.esf.edu/nativepeoples).**





## Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett

*Bozho, Nikan* (Hello, My Friend),

Since the very beginning of the full-scale attack on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation by the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the ABLE Commission (the state's alcohol licensing agency) and the City of Shawnee, I have been curious about the true objective of the aggressive behavior. Given the recent federal court precedents and the new federal statutes, it seemed obvious that the CPN would prevail, but would have to waste \$1 million or more defending itself from these seemingly organized attacks.

Why would Governor Mary Fallin's staff force us to squander the equivalent of 25-full, four year college scholarships or the construction costs of four new baseball fields? What is the point?

Recent events have made the answer more apparent; the CPN is a "whipping boy" for all of the tribes in Oklahoma in hopes that our example will force our fellow Native Nations into signing a com-

pact agreement forfeiting tribal sales taxes to the state, which Oklahoma is not entitled to under federal law.

Maria Maule, the Deputy General Counsel for Oklahoma Governor Fallin, spoke at the September 11, 2015 United Indian Nations of Oklahoma Kansas, and Texas at Riverwind Casino. She presented a new "sales tax compact" devised by Steve Mullins, General Counsel to the governor, that the state coerced the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Tribes into signing the previous week in order to get a McDonalds built on their jointly owned, undeveloped property in the City of Lawton.

Even though the compact does not say so, Maule stated that the tax applies only to the "specific properties" and not other tribal operations. Most disturbing was her clear inference that the legal actions against the Citizen Potawatomi, which have totaled \$730,000 in legal costs to date, are an object lesson!

This expensive fight, consisting of a multiple court defenses against state agencies who know the current law is against them, will happen to any tribe that conducts retail business on reservation without signing this newly invented "compact" devised by Mr. Mullins. It is a pure extortion scheme, an outright violation of the HEARTH Act of Con-

gress, and contrary to 2014 Supreme Court rulings in the Michigan versus Bay Mills Indian Community case.

Ms. Maule stated that Governor Fallin sees the Hearth Act "differently" and the Oklahoma Tax Commission will pursue any enterprise that has both on and off-reservation businesses by demanding taxes from the off-reservation outlet for any sales at the on-reservation sales point. This is a clear violation of federal preemption and the HEARTH Act, which Citizen Potawatomi Nation signed in November 2013. Ms. Maule presented her remarks and demands with an air of arrogance and entitlement that was clearly antagonistic. Our exchange of remarks became slightly unfriendly at that point.

Governor Fallin's appointee as Secretary of State, Chris Bengé, was at the same meeting and said he has been contacted by "many city officials" about the tribal sales tax issue. When I pressed him to name any beyond Shawnee, he declined. Secretary Bengé said the governor's office sees sales taxes as a "zero sum game."

In other words: anything a tribe gets comes at the expense of the state. I explained that such a position ignores the strong evidence that the sales tax collection history in Pottawatomie County in-

dicates that "a rising tide lifts all boats."

Given that CPN is the only tribe with significant retail activity in the county, I doubt his motives. He is singing the company song.

Note in the compact language that the tribal share of the tax revenue is 16.7 percent of the "portion of taxes dedicated to the General Fund". I believe that is less than \$.01, the Lawton area tribes believe they will get \$.25 for each dollar of sales.

The compact, despite its language to the contrary, is a violation of tribal sovereignty and also grants unprecedented access to the state of the names and addresses of every tribal vendor, plus the amount of business they do. That access will subject these vendors to state tax collection action off-reservation. At best, every customer will have to produce an I.D. to prove they are not a member of the Indian tribe who has the land where the store is located, clearly a violation of privacy and a barrier to commerce.

The reach of the state will expand.

I believe that will include Class II gaming in the future, which are now exempt from state "exclusivity fees" and regulation under the Gaming Compact. The sales tax compact reference to 68

O.S.1352 greatly expands the applicability of state law to tribal on-reservation business when one reads it. The Joint Committee on State/Tribal Relations in the Oklahoma Legislature has not approved this compact. The compact to which I refer is available for you to read on the CPN website at <http://tinyurl.com/LawtonCompact> or scan the QR code below.

The tax money they are trying to extort will not end up with the state. It will simply go away. So will 500 to 600 jobs in Pottawatomie County. The state knows that their chances of success in the legal actions are slim. What they are doing is financial punishment to coerce the tribes into giving up what Governor Fallin's lawyers know they can't seize in court.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

*Migwetch,*

John Barrett "Keweoge – He Leads Them Home"  
Tribal Chairman



## Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

tell how exciting it will be to gain so much knowledge in between the school breaks.

In essence, students of all ages seemed to enjoy my little school tale. My adult son, who is an educator, told me last night on the phone that fall break begins next week. I thought to myself how the school year just seemed to have begun, and now fall break and the holidays are approaching.

It is my passion to see children and young people advance through education. My interest in education extends to adults also. I am a true believer that it is never too late for adults to gain education and pertinent training. I also have a keen interest in the safety and maintenance of the facilities of our area public schools. Sitting at my desk at the Tribe, I see the need of the schools on a daily basis as requests for maintenance-related donations come through this office. Just as upkeep in our homes is vital for safety, comfort and economic reasons, the

same is true with the school district facilities.

Pottawatomie County has 14 school districts, most of which are in need of extensive maintenance. For several months there has been a joint effort from school superintendents in the 14 school districts of Pottawatomie County to discuss an increase in sales taxes for education purposes. Presently the county sales tax rate is 8.5 percent, which is also the Nation's sales tax rate. After a successful campaign to take the vote to the people, there will be a county-wide vote on November 10, 2015 to increase the sales tax from 8.5 percent to 8.995 percent for ten years.

The increase of just under a half a cent (.495) would serve two purposes...to be divided by the County's 14 school districts according to enrollment and .005 percent would go the One Safe Place Family Justice Center. Richard Smothermon, district attorney for Pottawatomie County, has been advocating

for the increase in sales tax in order to support the schools and the family justice center. This plan, if approved by the county voters, would credit Pottawatomie County with the first such program in Oklahoma; although Oklahoma City and a couple of others have municipal sales taxes dedicated to schools.

I provided our Tribal legislators with this message a few weeks ago as a "heads up" on the potential change in the county taxes. If the vote is approved, our legislators would need to choose their course of action for the Nation. We could stay with our present 8.5 percent, but I believe we would want to increase our taxes according to our surroundings. The referenced increase would permit a level playing field to continue. In addition, we would be helping the county communities by supporting the local schools. An important point is the fact that the CPN House of Hope and Family Violence Prevention Program works closely with the other community facilities to

prevent domestic violence and child abuse.

It is my opinion that our support of the One Safe Place Family Justice Center would be a positive move for our Nation. The choice will be up to our legislators if Pottawatomie County passes the increase in taxes.

No doubt there will be more publicity about this topic in the weeks leading up to November 10. Tribal Public Information Director Jennifer Bell will make sure our legislators have access to information that will help them determine their vote. I am excited about the possibility to help improve our school districts.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to fall break and the upcoming holidays for our children, and grandchildren.

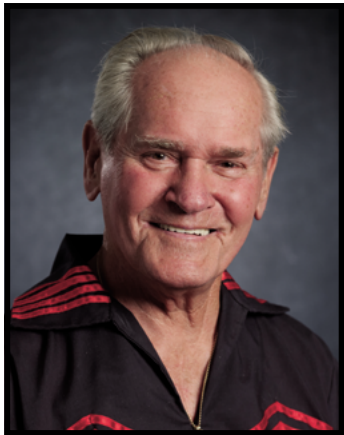
*Migwetch,*

Linda Capps, Vice Chairman

I am settling in for what I think of as the fall semester. After education has been part of a person's life for so long, it is not uncommon to think of time as a division of a school year. Actually, it is not a bad idea considering so many people have children or grandchildren in school.

I have a Potawatomi nephew who loved to hear me give my account of the year when he was in elementary school. I often told the students how important the beginning of the school year is so we can soon celebrate the holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas. Prior to those two holidays, there is fall break to observe. To add to the enthusiasm, I would





Bozho,

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in favor of same sex marriage nationwide and now it appears the issue will come before the CPN legislature. That being the case I would

## District 1 - Roy Slavin

be very interested in knowing the views and opinions of the majority of the District 1 membership.

I have been following the case of the Kentucky county clerk, Kim Davis, who was jailed for refusing to issue a marriage license to a gay couple. Davis' lawyer compared her willingness to accept imprisonment to what Martin Luther King Jr. did to advance civil rights. Dr. King was fighting for civil rights. I believe this woman was abusing civil rights.

I have asked for your views/opinion on this matter, it is

only fair that I tell you where I stand on the issue. I do not believe I or the federal government has the right to tell another person how to live their life as long as their actions do not harm me or another human. Please let me hear from you with your views/opinions as your representative it is very important for me to know your thoughts on the issues.

On another note I was very happy to see in the last *Hownikan* that our Language Director Justin Neely has initiated an online language course. I want to say thank you to Jus-

tin for giving those who live far from Oklahoma an opportunity learn our language.

The CPN will host the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations next year. The Gathering will be the last weekend of July. This date is earlier than the last Gathering because the August date of the last one conflicted with the starting of some of the Oklahoma schools and prevented some of our CPN members from attending.

As always I will ask for your contact information. Due to privacy issues the Nation can-

not provide me with that information. If you do not receive e-mail or snail mail from me it is because I do not have your information. Please send to Roy Slavin 6730 Tower Drive Kansas City, Mo. 64151 or e-mail Rslavin@potawatomi.org.

Check out D1 and D2 Fall Feast invitation on page 10.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative

Igwien (Heartfelt Thanks)

Roy Slavin (Netagtege)



Bozho nikanek (Hello friends)!

**Traditional Stories as a Holiday Gift:** I received some interesting, traditional Potawatomi stories in connection with the District 2 Story Contest. Since many of our stories are not to be told until the snow is on the ground, I did not submit them to the *Hownikan* with the other winning stories that were reprinted. Instead, they are being included in a small booklet I'll have printed up and as a holiday gift I'll be sending the book to those who request it. There is a catch, though. You'll need to send me and confirm your mailing address in order to receive your copy. This way I will get your updated contact details (and save postage otherwise spent on returned, misdirected mail) and you'll get the stories. I

## District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

look forward to hearing from you and to sending out your book. By the way, it is not too late to have your traditional story included in the book – if you've got one to share, please call me with it or write it down and email it, mail it or fax it to 917-344-8788, or use the contact details are at the end of this column.

**Report on the 2015 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations:** The Forest County Potawatomi Indian Community welcomed us to Carter, Wisconsin with great warmth and generosity. Citizen Potawatomi leaders who attended included legislators Dave Barrett, Bob Whistler and Roy Slavin, Vice Chairman Linda Capps, Tribal Chairman Rocky Barrett and me. Spouses Connie Barrett and Julia Slavin also attended. We were able to reconnect with quite a few tribal leaders and members of the other Potawatomi tribes, including Gus Franks (Tribal Chairman, Forest County), Ed Pigeon (Vice Chairman, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi), Ramona Cole and Carrie O'Toole (both Prairie Band Potawatomi, Carrie is on the

Tribal Council).

I also enjoyed visits with many CPN friends, among them: Bob and Janet Pearl (Illinois), Marge, Susan and Davis Hobdy (Texas and Maryland), Sheila Kelly (Florida), Susanne Simon (Florida) and Dwight Greenfield (Oklahoma), Tim and Margaret Zientek (Oklahoma). Tim was ever-kind and helpful and Margaret applied her talents and helped me wear properly some new beadwork as part of my regalia, made by Citizen Potawatomi Michael Hancock (Kansas).

Also there were Tesia Zientek (Oklahoma), Kelli Mosteller (Oklahoma), Dan Francoeur (Ohio), Cathy Wamego (Oklahoma), and Sharon Hoogstraten (Illinois). Sharon, as always, spent most of her Gathering time behind the camera – she made many portraits of Forest County and other Potawatomi in regalia, to everyone's delight, as part of her ongoing project to document modern Potawatomi.

I've included here a photo of Sharon making a portrait of Bob Whistler, and a photo of Mrs. Capps and me in our regalia. I want to give a special shout-out here to Kayla Longo, who had to miss the 2015 Gathering because she broke her foot! We have had a tradition of getting our picture taken together during the Gathering and I missed that this year, Kayla! I have posted many photos from the weekend on my website under the Photos tab – you will be impressed with the integrity and beauty of the place and the people.

During one afternoon during the Gathering, we had a meaningful ceremony, led by Chairman Barrett, for CPN citizen, veteran and historian Jerry Lewis, who walked on early in the summer. Jerry's ashes were spread in a wooded area in Carter at the close of the ceremony



Sharon Hoogstraten, photographer, with her subject Bob Whistler.

by his daughter AnnMarie Cobb, her husband David and by Jerry's sister Dorothy, among others. It was good to hear the Chairman blow the eagle bone whistle made by our friend Ted Welfelt (Florida) as part of the ceremony.

**Mark Your Calendars:** We, the CPN, will be honored to take our turn to host the 2016 Gathering during the last weekend in July 2016. I hope to see you there.

District 2 is combining with District 1 for the 2015 Fall Feast, which will be held on Sat., November 14, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Church Hall of the Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington VA 22207. Full details are available in the printed invitation that appears on page 10, and on [www.evamariecarney.com](http://www.evamariecarney.com), under "Calendar". Invitations are being mailed to those of you in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, North Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Please RSVP to Roy Slavin or me! The Feast comes at the end of "Rock Your Mocs Week 2015", so do wear your moccasins to it if you have some.

If you haven't heard, "Rock Your Mocs Week 2015" runs from November 8-15, 2015. Native Americans, Alaskan

Natives, Aboriginal/First Nations, Indigenous Peoples and friends throughout the world will participate by wearing our moccasins to school, to work or wherever the day takes us. It's a practical and fun way to let people know that we Native people are still here! You can learn more by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/p5ne4bz> (link is to a 2013 *Huffington Post* piece on origin of "Rock Your Mocs").

**Migwetch:** Building our CPN community in District 2 continues to be my top priority. Please don't forget to visit my website, as it is periodically updated with photos, news and other items of interest. Please also check in on, or consider joining if you haven't yet and are a Facebook user, our District 2 Facebook page. Contact me for details on joining. *Migwetch* for allowing me to represent you.

Kind regards and

Bama pi (until later)  
Eva Marie Carney  
Ojindiskwe  
Legislator, District #2  
The Portrait Building  
Suite 340  
701 8th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
ecarney@potawatomi.org  
866-961-6988  
[evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com)



I was thrilled to pose before Grand Entry with my heroine Vice Chairman Linda Capps.





Bozho (Hello)

After our Family Festival in June, there is another major meeting called The Gathering, which tends to be held the first or second week in August each year. This meeting rotates between the various Potawatomi nations. Two of these nations are in Canada, and the other seven, including CPN, are in the U.S.

This year, Forest County Potawatomi hosted the event in Carter, Wisconsin. It was a excellent meeting. Many things were covered, and learning crafts in a variety of areas were offered.

This year, I learned how to make a bow and three arrows from scratch, a drum from elk hide, and a set of leg

## District 3 - Bob Whistler

bells. It is quite a challenge to take a piece of wood that is a very long and rectangular in shape, and fashion it into a bow.

The Gathering, as well as our Family Festival is something you really need to attend, particularly if you have never been. It affords you the opportunity to learn various crafts, our language, and how to make regalia. It is a wonderful learning process and I urge you to attend, as well as inspire your children, and grandchildren to attend and become knowledgeable about our ancestors, culture and heritage.

Last month, I included two photos of crops that are grown in Texas, and offered a gift to the person in District 3 who can identify the two crops to me. I am now waiting to hear the replies.

This month I am offering another challenge. I recently learned that bell peppers have a male and a female variety. I have known for years that pineapples also have a male and a female variety. So, I am offering a gift to the first person in District 3 who



## JOIN US!

For one of two District 3 area meetings with Representative Bob Whistler

**SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 24 • 10AM - 3PM**

**HILTON GARDEN INN LEWISVILLE**  
**CONVENTION CENTER**  
972-459-4600 • 785 SH 121 BYPASS  
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067

**RSVP** no later than October 16, 2015

with Bob Whistler at [rwhistler@potawatomi.org](mailto:rwhistler@potawatomi.org) or 817-282-0868.

**SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 14 • 10AM - 3PM**

**HILTON GARDEN INN AUSTIN NORTH**  
512-339-3626 • 12400 N. I-35, BLDG C  
AUSTIN, TX 78753

**RSVP** no later than November 6, 2015

can tell me how to recognize the difference between the male from female in bell peppers and pineapples.

In regard to bell peppers, the male is best eaten cooked, while the female is better just cut up and the female has more seeds. That is not part of the answer you were to provide. I am looking for you to tell me how to look at the bell pepper or pineapple on the vine and be able to tell me how to recognize the gender from the outside

appearance.

On October 24, I will host a District 3 area meeting in Lewisville. On November 14, I will host another area meeting in north Austin. I look forward to seeing you there.

Before closing, it is a real honor and I am proud to be the District 3 Representative. I am here to help you and offer assistance in getting information and services from the Nation. Please contact

me if you find you have a need where I may be of assistance.

*Bama pi,*

Bob Whistler  
*Bmashi* (He soars)  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
112 Bedford Rd, Ste 114  
Bedford, TX 76022  
817-282-0868 - Office  
817-545-1507 - Home  
817-229-6271 - Cell  
[RWhistler@potawatomi.org](mailto:RWhistler@potawatomi.org)  
[CPN3Legislator@yahoo.com](mailto:CPN3Legislator@yahoo.com)



**Honoring our flag:** In the latest issue of the *Sunflower Legionnaire*, published by the Kansas American Legion, was a wonderful article titled "Remember Me" which dealt with how many of us have become lax in how we honor or show proper respect for the flag of the United States of America. With Veterans Day (November 11) approaching next month and many communities will hold parades and other ceremonies to remember and honor our veterans and service men and women we all need to pause to remember the appropriate courtesies in showing proper respect to our flag. Stand as the flag approaches you in a parade, or the national anthem is played, stop talking, take your hands out of your pockets, put away your cell phone and face the flag. Men and boys should remove their hats or caps and place them against their left shoulder with their hand over their heart, veterans are allowed to render a proper salute and women should place their hand over their heart. Show

## District 4 - Jon Boursaw

your patriotism and be proud that you do. Remember by showing respect in honoring the flag you also show respect in honoring those who gave their lives in defending our flag.

**Patriotic Memory:** Several years ago, I was part of the CPN Veterans Organization Color Guard in a parade in downtown Shawnee, Oklahoma. As we were headed east on Main Street I saw an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair at one of the corners by himself. As I approached the intersection with the U.S. flag, he pulled himself up from his wheelchair and rendered a salute until we had passed – *that is patriotism*

**Reminder of the District 4 meeting in Wichita, Oct. 31, 2015:** I will host a district meeting at the Mid-America Indian Center in Wichita on Saturday, Oct 31, 2015 at 10 a.m. In addition to the normal Tribal updates and discussion of benefits we will have a presentation by the CPN Eagle Aviary staff from Shawnee. Vice-Chairman Linda Capps has also indicated that she may attend this meeting. You should receive your invitation in the mail very soon. A catered lunch will be provided. To RSVP call me at 785-861-7272, e-mail me at [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org).

**CPN District 4 Veterans**



## JOIN US!

For the District 4 Legislative Meeting with Representative Jon Boursaw

**SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 31 AT 10AM**

**MID-AMERICA INDIAN CENTER**

650 N SENECA ST, WICHITA, KS 67203

**RSVP** no later than October 26, 2015 with Jon Boursaw  
at [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org) or 785-861-7272.

**Open House:** I plan to host a Veterans Open House at the Topeka District Office on Nov. 11, 2015 from 9-11 a.m. I would like to extend this invitation to all Tribal members. The office is located in the Seabrook Shopping Center at 21<sup>st</sup> and Gage, just around the corner from the Apple Market. A large CPN Tribal Seal is in the front window.

**Changes in CPN Veterans Organization Membership:** Effective June 2016, the annual membership dues for those veterans residing in District 4 will be \$10. Also membership in the CPN Vet Org is again open to non-Tribal veterans who are spouses of CPN Tribal members. I plan to have member-

ship forms at the open house event on Nov 11.

**Support a Tribal Member-owned business:** In August 2006, CPN tribal member Toby Brown started Brown Chevrolet Buick, Inc., a family owned and operated dealership with two Wamego locations. At the Hwy 24 location you will find a friendly knowledgeable, no pressure sales team and see the selection of new and preowned cars, trucks or SUVs. The GM Certified Parts & Service Department is located downtown, just a short distance from Hwy 24. Toby's GM Certified technicians that can perform GM factory warranty or recommended scheduled maintenance on most vehicle makes

or models. Call for Service at 785-456-9550 or Sales at 785-456-1227 or visit [www.brownchevroletbuick.com](http://www.brownchevroletbuick.com). Stop in and introduce yourself to Toby.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

*Migwetch,*  
Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*  
CPN District 4 Legislative Representative  
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Tuesday 9-11 a.m.  
Thursday 3-5 p.m.  
Other times - Please call





District 5 - Gene Lambert

You have all heard about Kokopelli no doubt. I decided to do some research for myself to find out just how this legend came about. Wikipedia says:

“Kokopelli is a fertility deity, usually depicted as a hump-backed flute player (often with feathers or antenna-like protrusions on his head), who has been venerated by some Native American cultures in the Southwestern United States. Like most fertility deities, Kokopelli presides over both childbirth and agriculture. He is also a trickster god and represents the spirit of music.”

There are many myths of the famous Kokopelli. One of which is that he traveled from village to village bringing the changing of winter to spring; melting the snow and bringing about rain for a successful harvest. It is also said that the hunch on his back depicted the sacks of seeds and songs he carried. Legend also has it that the flute playing also symbolized the transition of winter to spring. Kokopelli’s flute is said to be heard in the spring’s breeze, while bringing warmth. It

is also said that he was the source of human conception. Legend has it, everyone in the village would sing and dance throughout the night when they heard Kokopelli play his flute. The next morning, every maiden in the village would be with child.

Kokopelli is a deity that is akin to the ancient Greek god Dionysus or the ancient Roman God Apollo with just a touch of the southwest. Kokopelli has been around for over 3,000 years and the petroglyphs of him have been carved in; Sand Island, Shay Canyon, Honanlai Island, Mouse Lands, just to name a few.

After reading their versions he seemed to lose some of his charm.

We have Kokopelli Bed and Breakfast in Sedona, Arizona and of course the home grown Kokopelli Winery in Chandler, Arizona and many more too numerous to mention.

He has brought about charms, fabric print, signs, etc always depicted as happy, dancing and conveying warm thoughts or affection.

I always thought of Kokopelli as the magical person who played his flute. In so doing he was magic and he made everyone happy wanting to dance. It never occurred to me he was a fertility deity but as I researched further... some Native American com-

munities see him as a spirit blessing the growth of crops and the fertility of young women.



Kokopelli on rock wall in New Mexico - Photograph by Einar Einarsson Kvaran (Carptrash)

Each Native community had their own version, yet they are similar.

The story I liked best was one written for children describing a baby being born at the beginning of time. Kokopelli looked different than others in the village and they would laugh and make fun of him. He would cry as he did not want to be different.

(It was much like the black swan story.) One night he cried so loud to the heavens that he was heard throughout

the universe and woke Spider Woman. She called out to him wanting to know what made him so unhappy.

“Why are you crying Kokopelli? she asked. “Everyone laughs at me because I am different.” He sobbed. “I don’t want to be different!”

Spider Woman knew that Kokopelli was a good heart-

ed person and she gifted him a magic flute. She also told him to take some of the stars and put them in his back which he could gift to young women and they would then be assured one day of a child.

When Kokopelli returned to earth no one was laughing. The Heavens cried and their tears watered the crops and they grew plentiful. He was welcome in all the communities and when he played his flute everyone would be joyous and want to dance.

One story teller says he is the Jack Frost of the Anglo Saxton culture and that you can hear his music in the spring breeze. That is what inspires the growth of crops. They use the phrase “Spring Fever” again normally referenced in the Caucasian world to describe Kokopelli and the spirit of.

There were many versions of who he is and how he came about. I walked away with a much higher respect for Kokopelli.

Actually I had reached a point of thinking he had just been overdone.

Now I understand and think he is understated and utilized in lack.

So here is wishing you all the spirit of Kokopelli.



District 6 - Rande K. Payne

Ahau Jayek,

First a reminder that November is National American Indian Heritage Month and Friday November 27 (the day after Thanksgiving) is Native American Heritage Day.

November 4, 2015 commemorates the arrival of the Potawatomi in Osawatomie, Kansas after the forced removal from our homelands. The march took exactly two months. During the march, many, mostly elders and children became very ill or perished. We arrived in

Kansas looking forward to the food and shelter that had been promised only to face the reality there was neither. This arduous and sorrow filled event is now known as The Trail of Death.

Over the summer there were some changes made to our Health Aid benefits. The changes focused mostly on the eyeglasses portion of the benefits. Many of our members voiced concern about the changes. I’m happy to report that the Health Aid benefits have been switched back to the way they were prior to these changes.

In early August we entered into a prepaid tuition agreement with St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee that would make it possible for CPN members to attend the university through this program. Many of the details are still being worked out but

essentially there is a wide variety of opportunities for various studies, degrees and even room and board and internships. And for those of us outside Oklahoma, online courses are being developed rapidly..

When the agreement with St. Gregory’s University was announced, I received communications from members who were excited about the agreement and some who were not so excited. I think it’s important for everyone to know that education is near the top of CPN’s priority list. We believe that a college education affords financial independence and opens doors to a much wider variety of opportunity for a better life. I hear testimonies all the time of how CPN helped members obtain a college degree that otherwise would not have been possible. We should all be very proud of

how many Tribal members we have helped in this way.

That said, there are differing opinions of how we should be utilizing our resources. As I said earlier, we are heavily vested in education. I would encourage everyone to view the agreement with St. Gregory’s as another significant investment in the future of our members. Our economy is changing and with it a shift from non-skilled jobs to jobs requiring a college degree. As we think of our youth and the generations yet to come we should embrace education as a vital part of their being able to thrive and live their dreams in the world of tomorrow!

For up to date information on St. Gregory’s programs contact Tesia Zientek ([tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org](mailto:tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org)) or Charles Clark ([cclark@potawatomi.org](mailto:cclark@potawatomi.org)) by email

or at Tribal Headquarters by phone (800-880-9880). If you are even slightly interested I would encourage you to act quickly as many people have expressed interest and enrollment numbers increase almost daily. Also see the ad on page two for more information

All for now...bama mine!

‘Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.’ Proverbs 9: 9

Migwetch!  
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## District 8 - Dave Carney



Bozho,

The Alaska weather cooperated with my travel plans until the night of the Regional Gathering in Anchorage. Then there was a slow, steady rain that dampened the CPN members' movement, but not their spirits. Like trying to count a moving flock of birds, we had somewhere between 60 and 80 members and guests grouped together in the "chalet" that I had rented from the City of Anchorage. Part of the plan was

to have an open deck and grounds for the members of the "Sleeping Lady" drum group to be able to spread out. Instead, after dinner we moved out tables to accommodate the drumming and dancing.

The Sleeping Lady Drum Group is an Alaska Intertribal Community based drum group that has a foundation in sobriety. Several members of our District 8 community belong to the group and regularly play at powwows and gatherings in the area. They are made up of members of various tribes across the U.S., not the least of which are members of local Alaska Native tribes. Thanks you to Cary and Tina Shorthill of Wasilla for inviting them. If you live in the area and would like to learn more about drumming

with this group, they practice Thursday evenings. Please contact me and I will put you in touch.

Rozann Kimpton, also of Wasilla, Alaska was our "wisest Potawatomi" and received a beautiful Pendleton blanket from FireLake Gifts. Lonnie Dunkin of Ketchikan, Alaska was our "farthest travelled" member – an almost 1,100 mile journey, for which he received a very nice traveling thermos and bag from the FireLake Gifts as well. This was the first Potawatomi gathering Lonnie had attended and he promised he'd be back for more.

As those of you may remember who have attended a District 8 Gathering in the last few years, I have been having a Native American

Art Contest as part of festivities. At the Fall Feast last year in Portland we had a lot of competition with so many good samples of art created by our members that the judges had a very tough time determining a winner. Our Anchorage gathering had only one entry, but it was a beauty. Ginger Blackmon entered a very nice had made hand drum with the CPN Tribal symbol hand painted on it. Along with the drum was an antler handled beater.

Also during this visit we had an intimate naming ceremony for two members, Dax O'Brien and Marilyn Summerhays, at Ginger's home. I'd really like to thank her for opening up her home (back yard) so that we could gather and have our ceremony. That is often the most difficult thing to coordinate –

where we can meet and have a small fire for the ceremony.

Alaska is a beautiful and rugged state. Among the many things to enjoy are white water rafting, hiking, wildlife viewing and gold panning. The tourist industry makes their money in a few short months from visitors from the lower 48 and around the world. Warning: Alaska is expensive to see, but there is no other place like it in the world.

Please mark your calendars for the November 14, 2015 Fall Feast at the Duwamish Longhouse in Seattle.

Bama Pi,  
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360.259.4027



*Dax with Sleeping Lady drum group.*



*Two moose resting in a field.*



*Rozann Kimpton, wisest member dancing with a child.*



*Dave Carney and Lonnie Dunkin of Ketchikan, AK.*



*Art contest winner Ginger Blackmon.*



*Independence gold mine in Hatcher Pass, AK.*





District 9 - Paul Wesselhöft

The Center for Sovereign Nations at Oklahoma State University

*Bozho, Nikan:*

Oklahoma State University has provided a place where Native American students can come together, form lifelong friendships, and join forces to accomplish good things for American Indians.

The Center for Sovereign Na-

tions is a place where native students can hold meetings and pursue resolutions to issues facing Indian tribes and nations.

The center’s mission is three-fold: “to increase the number of American Indian graduates from OSU; to build partnerships between OSU and tribal nations; and to promote understanding and respect of the sovereignty of American Indian nations.”

“OSU consistently ranks first or second in the country in number of American Indian graduates,” President Burns Hargis said. “The Center for Sovereign Nations will build a much stronger partnership.”

I commend this university in Stillwater, Oklahoma for establishing this center. I hope this development will inspire other universities across the nation to do the same. I would like to see a similar center established

at Saint Gregory’s University in Shawnee and at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

CPN students have a good choice of a university to obtain their higher education on a campus where they are respected and have a center to call home away from home.

*Megwetch, ---Naganit*



District 10 - David Barrett

How to determine the “truth” in facts

*Bozho,*

According to Wikipedia...A “fact” can be defined as something which is the case, that is, a state of affairs. Facts may be understood as that which makes a true sentence true. Facts may also be understood as those things to which a true sentence refers.

In law, a “question of fact”, also known as a “point of fact”, is a question which must be answered by reference to facts and evidence and inferences arising from those facts.

Since you know very little about what a fact is from the above definition, we need to determine if the facts holds any truths. We all used to do research from books, encyclopedias, people, written documents and what-

ever material was available to determine a reasonable estimate how we were to conceive the answer.

However, we are now becoming dependent on the “easy way” of researching – *the Internet*. The Internet as I see it is like driving a car. At first you are very cautious where you go and how long you stay behind the wheel. Then you drive responsibly. After awhile you might get careless and begin to drive fast or even drink while driving, being irresponsible and ignoring the law.

Now let’s go to the Internet. For every piece of reputable information you’ll find countless rumors, misinformation and downright falsehoods. Here’s how to make sure you don’t get duped. You must separate the truth from fiction in equal parts...a mental battle and diligent research. Filtering out the junk from the facts is hard, but not impossible.

Thorin Klosowski asked the question, “Why you shouldn’t trust your brain to spot truth.”

Why does misinformation travel quickly. He spoke of a number of reasons for this to exist, but two are more prevalent than others.

First off, we have a belief perseverance which *Scientific American* magazine describes like so:

“Belief perseverance: maintaining your original opinions in the face of overwhelming data that contradicts your beliefs. Everyone does it, but we are especially vulnerable when invalidated beliefs form a key part of how we narrate our lives. Researchers have found that stereotypes, religious faiths and even our self-concept are especially vulnerable to belief perseverance.”

Essentially, once an idea becomes a “fact” in our head, we have a hard time believing that the opposite is true when it’s disproven. This is how myths and rumors gain steam.

Second; How to figure out if misinformation is true? Misinformation is everywhere! Our brains aren’t as skeptical of information as they should be. Sometimes you have to force it a little to find the real facts. Author Scott Berkun suggests you start this by asking yourself a question.

“The first detection tool is a question: How do you know what you know? Throw this phrase down when someone

force feeds you an idea, an argument, a reference to a study or over-confidently suggests a course of action. People so rarely have their claims challenged, that asking someone to explain how they know sheds light on whatever ignorance they’re hiding.”

Obviously you don’t always have access to someone making a claim, but asking yourself that question (“how do they know what they know?”) will bring out the skepticism that leads you through the rest of the process.

You know that telling one person in a circle and having it repeated to the next, how it turns out at the end of the circle. People interpret information differently and it’s easy for the truth to get lost in the shuffle. If you find a piece of advice online in a forum or question/answer site, search again for the answer by itself to check the validity.

Sometimes getting to the truth requires that you to ask questions. If something seems off, whether it’s a piece of advice, a fact, or something that sounds too good to be true, ask yourself the following questions?

1. Is it safe to try this?
2. Is the statement coming

- from a reputable source?
  3. Does the person writing this have anything to gain from their statement?
  4. The key here is to ask a question if the statement sounds false. Check dubious claims against trusted sources. You can’t leave everything up to you intuition.
- Here are some helpful resources when you’re deciphering the truth.
1. Politicfact
  2. Factcheck
  3. Snopes
  4. Truth or Fiction

Be very careful on getting medical facts from the Internet and monitor your children on what they’re viewing on the net.

It goes without saying that it is an honor and a privilege to serve you and our great Nation.

*Migwetch*

David Barrett/Mnedobe (Sits with the Spirit)  
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## Gloria Darlene Walton



Gloria Darlene Walton was born in Asher, Oklahoma on May 9, 1934. She moved to California with her parents in 1940.

She passed away in a nursing home in Fresno, California on June 23, 2015 at the age of 81 from Alzheimer's Dementia.

She is survived by her husband: James W. Walton, Sr. of Fresno; son: James W. Walton, Jr. of Fresno; sister: Marilyn Richardson of Bakersfield; nephew: Keith Richardson of Bakersfield.

She was preceded in death by her parents: George and Ina Barrett.

## MaeBelle Katherine Dixon



MaeBelle Katherine Dixon, formerly of Oklahoma City, passed away after a lengthy illness in Wichita, Kansas on July 18, 2015. MaeBelle was born to John and Anna DeWitt on Jan. 21, 1927.

Both of her parents and her stepfather Granville Swope preceded her in death. She was also preceded to heaven by her son Gary Lee Dixon and her husband of more than 60 years, Raymond Dixon.

MaeBelle worked for Western Electric/AT&T for 20 years as a Senior Electronic Specialist. She continued to hold her beautician's license which she obtained before working for Western Electric.

Her hobbies included going to the lake, word puzzles, knitting, crocheting, and cross-stitching. She enjoyed traveling to Las Vegas. MaeBelle was an Eastern Star for more than 50 years.

Mae was full of wit and humor and was a trusted friend to many people. She also had a soft spot in her heart for animals. She consistently fed and cared for stray animals. Her favorite pet was a Doberman named Sampson.

Outside of her activities, Mae most loved her family. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law: Lana and Robert Tucker. She has one grandson: Robert Tucker II and wife Jen. MaeBelle also leaves behind two great-grandsons: Tanner and Ethan Tucker; all are from Haysville, Kansas. In Oklahoma City, MaeBelle leaves one sister-in-law: Mrs. Wanda Minson. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

## Terry V. Myers



Terry V. Myers, 75 year old Woodward resident, died Saturday, June 20, 2015 at his home in Woodward.

Terry Vaughn Myers was born October 17, 1939 at the Maud-Y, Maud, Oklahoma to Benjamin Fred and Willie Joe (Brown) Myers. Terry grew up in Seminole and New Lima and graduated from New Lima High School. He attended college in Ada. Terry began oilfield work in the Seminole area before moving to Woodward in the 1970s where he remained and worked until the early 1980s as an owner/operator. He later began his own trucking company and it gave him much enjoyment; he was known as "Workin Man".

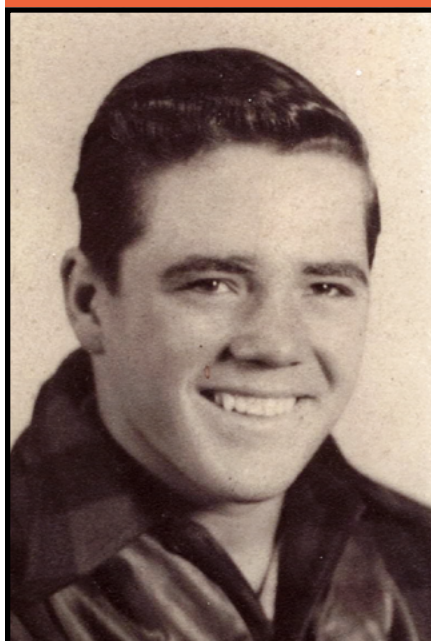
He was united in marriage to Pamela Louise Barnard on July 26, 1985 in Las Vegas, Nevada. They made their home in Woodward and they have lived there since that time. Terry loved the Woodward area and the people. He loved attending his chil-

dren's sporting and school events. Terry enjoyed spending time with the family around the different holidays and being with them during summer vacations. He loved being part of his children's successes.

He is survived by his wife: Pam Myers of their home in Woodward; two sons: Curtis Myers of Florida and John Myers of Woodward; two daughters: Teresa Johnson of Seminole and Jennifer Myers of Woodward; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one sister: Barbara King of Earlsboro, Oklahoma; other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Ben and Willie Joe Myers; sisters: Anita Myers, Jaunita Conger, Sybil Pennington, and Louise Perryman; and his son: Dr. Ben Myers.

## Julian Curtis Johnson



Julian Curtis Johnson, 83, born in Eola, Oklahoma, September 14, 1931, to father Julian Marion Johnson and mother Glatis Mildred (Melot) Johnson, went to live with his Lord and Heavenly Father August 8, 2015. He had lived in the comfort of Caprock Nursing & Rehab, in Borger, Texas, since December 31, 2013 under the auspices of their qualified staff and supervised healthcare of Pampa, Texas Accolade Hospice for whose services the whole Johnson family is appreciative.

Julian was the third child in a family of six siblings who migrated to Texas from Oklahoma with the whole Johnson clan of approximately twenty people during the late 1930s depression. Shortly thereafter with Hitler of Germany threatening, WW II War began and father Julian was

drafted. With no father figure and little income, Mrs. Johnson eventually relocated in Borger and J. C., a lad of approximately 14 years of age and large for his age, was enamored by his father's Navy uniform and anxious to duplicate the call, joined the Navy.

Julian eventually returned home and soon married; he eventually became a Borger plumber and became the father of two sons and three daughters. Finally, his family relocated and Julian went to Lubbock where he met the love of his life. He and Mildred Johnson established a successful plumbing business, the Johnson Plumbing Company. Although wife Mildred was an active registered nurse, she helped him maintain a valid business. Mildred succumbed to brain cancer in 2000; Julian, devastated by her death, returned to Borger where he occupied his dead father's house at 122 Alpine. His children are scattered and he has many nieces and nephews. Daughter: Juliana is deceased; sister: Mildred Smith passed in 2000 as did his wife: Mildred. Naturally, his parents are gone too. Also surviving are his brothers: Thomas M. Johnson and wife Fern of Borger; James Earl Johnson of Kingston, Arizona; Elbert Johnson and wife Darlene of Lake Whitney, Tx.; and sister: Margaret Dunham and husband Bill of Borger.

Julian is a proud Potawatomi Indian and loved the yearly Powwows held in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Moreover, he was extremely proud that his grandfather Thomas Marion Melot was very instrumental in establishing the importance of the Potawatomi Nation.

There on Alpine, he became a recluse and from this shell of a man Accolade rescued him; then Caprock assisted in maintaining Julian in relatively good health. However, the Lord had the final say and Julian Curtis Johnson bowed to his call that early morning of August 8th.

## Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document and a 300dpi photo to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org).

## CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

**The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.**

**Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must**

**be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.**

**For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [CClark@Potawatomi.org](mailto:CClark@Potawatomi.org).**